

Funding Opportunity for Improving Home Visiting Services in Communities with Highest Need

Since 2011, the Michigan Home Visiting Initiative (MHVI) has been moving toward targeting home visiting funding toward expanding services for families in communities where needs are great and resources to deliver evidence-based home visiting are limited. A needs assessment has been used to inform decision making, both at the state and local level.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will be releasing a call for proposals to expand or implement home visiting for families and their at-risk children through Section 32p of the State School Aid Act for 2015-2016. The goals of this funding are to improve school readiness, reduce the number of pupils retained in grade level, and reduce the number of pupils requiring special education services. Communities interested in applying for this funding are required to develop and submit a locally coordinated, family-centered, evidence-based, data-driven home visiting strategic plan and select a home visiting program model that exhibits evidence in achieving improved school readiness.

In order to support evidence-based decision making, the MHVI has contracted with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) to guide communities through completing local or regional home visiting needs assessments. In order to be eligible for these Section 32p funds, Great Start Collaboratives (GSCs) or a consortium of GSCs must convene parent representatives and local home visiting system partners to complete this process. Funds will be awarded through Intermediate School Districts as fiduciaries of their GSCs to implement via the plan that is developed. All communities interested in assessing their home visiting needs and assets are welcome to engage in this process as well.

The needs assessment process will be guided by an Exploration and Planning Tool. The purpose of the tool is to guide communities or regions in making data-driven decisions about the need for additional home visiting and the evidence-based home visiting model that best fits with a community's needs and assets. The process involves convening a group of stakeholders, gathering and reviewing data, identifying existing home visiting programs, determining unmet needs, and establishing goals for expanding or implementing specific home visiting program models.

The tool is designed to be completed in steps with facilitated guidance from MPHI. Communities will receive training and technical assistance at each step in the process, and will send MPHI materials for feedback after each step is completed. The entire process is designed to be completed by June 6, 2016.

A recording of the MHVI Exploration & Planning Kick-off Webinar that was conducted on April 11, 2016. Communities that are interested in undergoing the Exploration & Planning process were asked to contact MPHI to express interest. Interested communities then receive a copy of the Exploration & Planning tool.

For access to the recorded webinar or more information about the Exploration and Planning Process, please contact Loan Nguyen at lnguyen@mphi.org. If you would like more information about the Section 32p funding opportunity, please contact Rachel Mellema at mellemar@michigan.gov.